

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 FEA-01 ERDA-05

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DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR:REINHORN

APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:DKLEIN

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082139

E.O. 11652: GDS

PARM, UK

TAGS: PARM, UK

SUBJECT: UK INTEREST IN QUOTA TEST BAN

REF: LONDON 4427

1. ACTING ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR KLEIN CALLED IN BRITISH EMBOFFS WILBERFORCE AND MAKINS APR 10 TO GIVE US RESPONSE TO UK PLAN, MENTIONED IN MARCH 21-22 BILATERALS IN LONDON (REFTEL), TO SUGGEST FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF QUOTA TEST BAN (QTB) AT NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE. KLEIN INDICATED THAT US APPRECIATED UK INTEREST IN THRESHOLD TEST BAN TREATY PROVISION THAT WEAPONS TESTS BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM, BUT DID NOT SEE HOW THIS GENERAL PROVISION COULD BE TRANSLATED INTO A MORE SPECIFIC, EFFECTIVE LIMITATION. HE EXPRESSED US HOPE THAT QTB WOULD NOT BECOME ISSUE AT REVIEW CONFERENCE AND THAT BRITISH WOULD NOT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER IN PRE-CONFER-
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ENCE CONSULTATIONS WITH SOVIETS.

2. KLEIN OUTLINED FOR BRITISH PRINCIPAL US RESERVATIONS WITH QUOTA TEST BAN IDEA. HE NOTED THAT QTB COULD RAISE PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO TREATMENT OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, COULD COMPLICATE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS ON AGREEMENT TO GOVERN PNES CALLED FOR IN TTBT, AND WOULD

RAISE SERIOUS VERIFICATION PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO VERY LOW YIELD EXPLOSIONS AND SIMULTANEOUSLY DETONATED EXPLOSIONS.

3. WILBERFORCE, READING FROM INSTRUCTIONS, STATED THAT PRESENT UK INTENTION WAS NOT TO ELABORATE IN DETAIL ON QTB PROPOSAL AT REVIEW CONFERENCE. HE MENTIONED IMPORTANCE OF DEMONSTRATING INTENTION AT CONFERENCE TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS ON ARTICLE VI OF NPT, BUT SAID US VIEWS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE FURTHER DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ON HANDLING MATTER IN CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS AND AT CONFERENCE. MAKINS ADDED PERSONAL VIEW THAT, SINCE "OUR MINISTER" HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH QTB PROPOSAL IN PAST, THERE WAS SOME HIGH LEVEL DESIRE TO PUT IDEA FORWARD AT REVCON EVEN IF IT WERE NOT PURSUED IN DETAIL.

4. MAKINS WONDERED WHETHER COMMITMENT IN TTBT TO KEEP WEAPONS TESTS TO A MINIMUM HAD ANY SPECIFIC MEANING AND ASKED WHETHER US AND USSR HAD SOME NUMBER IN MIND. KLEIN STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT PROVISION WAS MEANT TO POINT PARTIES IN DESIRABLE DIRECTION, NOT HOLD THEM TO SPECIFIC NUMBERS. KISSINGER

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